

The precise form of the solution We Pass will seek for the Iron Gates impasse is still under review. Initial studies are still ongoing, establishing the most effective and least disruptive way to get Danube fish migrating once again.

We Pass is combining its efforts with the similar and complementary programmes already in place across the region, addressing sturgeon migration, a key piece of the overall Danube conservation puzzle. Getting the sturgeon over this single set of obstacles will truly help them to rec-

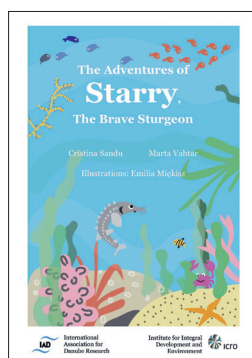
upy their former home upriver and to again become an expected and iconic sight all along the Danube.

References

Deinet S, Scott-Gatty K, Rotton H, Twardek WM, Marconi V, McRae L, Baumgartner LJ, Brink K, Claussen JE, Cooke SJ, Darwall W, Eriksson BK, Garcia de Leaniz C, Hogan Z, Royte J, Silva LGM, Thieme ML, Tickner D, Waldman J, Wanningen H, Weyl OLF, Berkhuisen A (2020): The Living Planet Index (LPI) for migratory freshwater fish – Technical Report. World Fish Migration Foundation, The Netherlands.

News and Notes

New children's book on sturgeons released by IAD



As an active network, the International Association for Danube Research (IAD) wants to go beyond the development of scientific core topics on environmental issues. The IAD scientists know how important near-natural rivers and associated wetlands are for human well-being. The role of healthy river landscapes such as the

Danube, which connects 10 countries in Europe, has become increasingly important in recent decades. In order to increase awareness of the conservation of aquatic habitats and their animal and plant species, the IAD has published an e-book for children in cooperation with the Institute for Integral Development and Environment, Slovenia. It tells the adventures of a small sturgeon in the river and sea and the

challenges it faces in its habitats. "The Adventures of Starry, the Brave Sturgeon" is suited for children aged 8-13 years. A coloring book was also designed for children aged 4-7.

The e-book and the coloring book were written in English and translated into nine languages of the Danube region: Bulgarian, German, Croatian, Romanian, Serbian, Slovak, Slovenian, Hungarian and Ukrainian.

The e-books, pdfs as well as the coloring book are available free of charge under this link: https://www.danube-iad.eu/index.php?item=educational_issues

References

Sandu C, Vahtar M, Miękisz E (2020): The adventures of Starry, the brave sturgeon. Publisher: International Association for Danube Research and Institute for Integral Development and Environment, 80 pages.

Gertrud Haidvogel

Obituary Univ.-Prof. Dr. Elsa Leonore Kusel-Fetzmann

The "Grande Dame" of Austria's Hydrobotany, Univ. Prof. Dr. Elsa Leonore Kusel-Fetzmann has passed away on 16 April 2020. We sadly have to accept this ultimate incident of her long life.

Prof. Kusel began her studies at the University Vienna in 1950 and finished her doctoral thesis entitled 'Contributions to Algal Sociology' in June 1956. This study already sparked her interest on floodplain waters of the River Danube as well as on biomass estimates of algal abundances and algal cultivation (Fetzmann 1956). In the same year she was employed at the Institute for Plant Physiology, University Vienna, by her doctor-father and head of the Institute, Prof. Karl Höfler. In the following years, Kusel published physiological lab work on algae as well as studies in the field (e.g. Fetzmann 1958). Together with Höfler, she published a pioneering work on Neusiedler See in 1959 (Höfler & Fetzmann 1959) and participated in the SIL-con-

gress held in Austria with a paper on algal sociology of Danube floodplain lakes (Fetzmann 1961a). Latest at the congress if not earlier, she met Prof. Heinz Löffler and Prof. Reinhard Liepolt, both crucial for her career. Her Habilitation described the algal vegetation in floodplain lakes of the River Danube (Fetzmann 1963). The 'Kardinal-Innitzer Award' was granted to her for this study and she acquired the 'venia legendi' for Plant Physiology, Ecology and Hydrobotany. A year later, 1964 she married Dr. Hermann Kusel, a schoolteacher and marine algologist. Her publication oeuvre from that time is multifaceted including articles with physiological, ecological or systematic content. Besides her continuous interest in peat bogs throughout her career (e.g. Fetzmann 1961b), her opus contains marine work (e.g. together with her later husband, Fetzmann & Kusel 1962), studies on macrophytes (e.g. Kusel-Fetzmann & Lew 1972) as well as investigations on special habitats



© M. Dokulil - Lunz ca. 1967



(e.g. Kusel-Fetzmann 1966). It must be emphasized that her focus was always directed towards Hydrobotany sensu Gessner (1955, 1959). Accordingly, Gessner's encyclopedic two volumes became the initial 'must read' and inspiration for many of her students. It is only logic therefore that she initiated a separate group on macrophytes once the title Univ.-Prof. was awarded to her in 1973, and particularly after she became head of the Hydrobotany section in 1977. Already ten years earlier in 1967, Kusel began to supervise doctoral, and later master students. Among the first 12 dissertations 5 were concerned with the Danube and adjacent floodplains, two studies dealt with different aspects of the shallow lake Neusiedler See, two others with lakes at Lunz and the three remaining were physiological studies. Among several other articles on floodplains and the River Danube, Kusel-Fetzmann, Naidenov & Russev (1998) remain an essential element in her legacy.

Kusel's enthusiastic performance in the field and in the laboratory, her taxonomic knowledge and immense interest in all hidden aspects of the subject inspired undergraduates. She had a lucky hand in choosing her students, guided them as much as necessary but left space to develop own ideas and activities. Moreover, she introduced her scholars to scientific meetings such as the annual congress of the International Danube Association (IAD). She also was keen to acquaint them with scientists in the field of hydrobiology which was an easy task for her as a well-known and internationally linked hydrobotanist. Consequently, it is not surprising that she was proud of several students and associates which luckily made career in science or scientific management.

All her manifold activities in science, teaching, excursions, her engagement in associations, conferences etc. would not have been possible without the continuous generous backup by her husband Dr. Hermann Kusel who cared about the two daughters and family issues, besides serving as a high-school-teacher, and being a scientist and a notable musician himself.

Besides her own comprehensive oeuvre Elsa Leonore Kusel bequeathed many scientists, in Austria as well as abroad, to dedicate their research activities to the field of Hydrobotany and Phycology. Their scientific studies and projects continue and expand her research legacy keeping her intentions in mind.

We will always remember Elsa Leonore Kusel as a lively person, an influential teacher, and an eminent researcher. We believe that the Danube research community will commemorate her for her scientific contributions.

References

- Fetzmann EL (1956): Beiträge zur Algensoziologie. Sitzungsberichte der Akademie der Wissenschaften mathematisch-naturwissenschaftliche Klasse 165, 709-783.
- Fetzmann EL (1958): Die Biologie der Badener Thermen. Mitteilung der Österr. Sanitätsverwaltung 59(5).
- Höfler K, Fetzmann EL (1959): Algen-Kleingesellschaften des Salzlachengebietes am Neusiedler See I. Sitzungsberichte der Akademie der Wissenschaften mathematisch-naturwissenschaftliche Klasse 168, 371 - 386.
- Fetzmann EL (1961a): Algensoziologische Untersuchungen in Altwässern der Donauauen, Internationale Vereinigung für theoretische und angewandte Limnologie: Verhandlungen, 14(1), 466-470, DOI: 10.1080/03680770.1959.11899314
- Fetzmann EL (1961b): Einige Algenvereine des Hochmoorkomplexes Komosse. Botaniska Notiser 114(2), 185-212.
- Fetzmann EL, Kusel H (1962): Über Bau und Wachstum der Zellwände einiger Ceramiales. Botanica Marina IV, 175-183.
- Fetzmann EL (1963): Studien zur Algenvegetation der Donau Auen. Archiv für Hydrobiologie, Supplement Donauforschung 27, 183-225.
- Gessner F (1955): Hydrobotanik. Band 1. Energiehaushalt. Dt. Verlag Wissenschaft, Berlin, 517 S.
- Gessner F (1959): Hydrobotanik. Band 2. Stoffhaushalt, Dt. Verlag Wissenschaft, Berlin, 701 S.
- Kusel-Fetzmann EL (1966): Eine interessante Alge auf überschwemmten Äckern. Mikrokosmos 1, 11-13.
- Kusel-Fetzmann EL, Lew H (1972): Die Makrophytenvegetation des Klopeiner Sees (Kärnten). Verhandlungen der Zoologisch-Botanischen Gesellschaft 112, 94-99.
- Kusel-Fetzmann E, Naidenov W, Russev B (Eds., 1998): Plankton und Benthos der Donau. Ergebnisse der Donauforschung 4. WUV Wien.

*Martin Dokulil
Georg Janauer
Katrin Teubner*